

page bill, H.R. 3962, still cuts Medicare by one-half trillion dollars to our seniors and creates a new entitlement program.

The bill provides disincentives to States and punishes them if they impose caps on noneconomic damages or limits contingency fees to trial lawyers in medical liability cases. This takes us backwards, not forwards.

There is a job-crushing employer mandate and tax increases on small businesses in the form of surtaxes on income. This is a job killer, make no mistake.

There is a medical device tax that punishes innovation and imperils manufacturing jobs at companies like B. Braun and Olympus in my congressional district. In fact, many of them refer to this tax as the death tax. When is enough enough?

LET US GO FORWARD; LET US NOT GO BACKWARD

(Mr. McCOTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, we do not live on a government-run globe; we live in a people-powered world. The massive, radical change that is presented by the health care bill brought forward by this majority constitutes the policies of the past.

Within the communications revolution in the globalized marketplace, one thing is certain: human beings, at a greater extent than at any other time in history, are now able to control more of their lives and their own decisions. True health care reform must not resist these times; they must meld with these times. We need patient-centered wellness through transparency, technology, and a humane and compassionate understanding and help for our fellow citizens. This bill will not do it.

Fundamentally, this bill will bury the American people beneath Big Government at the very time they have a greater chance of empowering themselves and making their own decisions. Let us go forward; let us not go backward.

REPUBLICANS HAVE A BILL

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we heard a good friend across the aisle just a little bit ago say, Hey, where is the Republican bill? You don't have one scored by CBO? Well, I'm sure he didn't know, but some of us have bills, we have many bills. I've been trying for 2½ months to get a score from CBO, but I've been shut out. I haven't been able to get a score. And it is a bill that will give coverage to everyone; it will make sure seniors have complete coverage like they've never had before; it would be a savings for people.

But the Democrats have a bill. They cut a deal with pharmaceuticals, forc-

ing people with HSA to buy prescriptions instead of over the counter, cut a deal with some insurance companies so they will have liability limitations, cut a deal where States will be bribed to eliminate caps on attorneys' fees and caps on damages, cut a deal with unions. It appears that there's not adequate requirements for identification, then it's a deal for illegals, and also for abortion.

This is not the bill we should be supporting. Let's get a new bill. We've got it.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, they say the definition of insanity is trying the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result, which perfectly describes the House Democrats' health care reform bill.

For months now, I have been trying to explain in every forum possible how this bill is taking the worst parts of the universal health programs in Tennessee and Massachusetts and combining them into one monstrosity of a program. Unfortunately, passing theory that sounds good but has failed is more important to our Democratic colleagues than actually getting reforms that work.

This is why it matters: the reforms being proposed will decrease access, decrease quality and increase cost of care for the vast majority of Americans. I can say this unequivocally as a physician and as a Tennessee resident who has experienced TennCare firsthand. Small businesses that are dealing with the worst recession in years will have to lay off workers and cut back on wages to deal with these new mandates. Individuals who are scrimping and saving to get by will see their taxes and costs increase.

Some good will come of this bill, but the bad results that we know from experience will happen should be reason enough to scrap this bill and try to agree on a bipartisan bill that will work.

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HEALTH CARE

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, one of the most troubling realities of the Nancy Pelosi health care bill is a new tax on medical devices. The so-called wheelchair tax imposes a new 2.5 percent tax increase at the very time American families don't need and don't want a tax increase.

Yes, the Pelosi bill includes a new 2.5 percent excise tax on the sale of medical devices in the United States. It will cover everything from bandages to

prosthetics, from glucose monitors to crutches, from hearing aids to pacemakers, and even thermometers to syringes.

Weren't we told that there wouldn't be even one dime—not one dime—of a tax increase for those earning less than \$250,000 a year?

This bill adds a tax increase that will hit each and every American. It will affect jobs in this country, and it will affect your ability to buy the very things that you need for your children, for your parents, for your own families.

Think about all of the medical devices that you use within your family.

H.R. 3962—THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose Speaker PELOSI's government takeover of health care.

This bill, which weighs in at nearly 2,000 pages and at more than 20 pounds, will raise taxes on individuals and small businesses, cut health care for seniors, raise health care premiums, ration care, and give Federal bureaucrats more power over decisions that should be made by our constituents and by their doctors. The bill raises taxes by \$730 billion, and it costs nearly \$1.3 trillion. We literally cannot afford this government takeover of health care. There is a better way.

We should, instead, be lowering health care costs by enacting medical liability reform, strengthening association health plans, allowing the purchase of health insurance across State lines, and eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse in Federal health care programs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose Speaker PELOSI's health care bill.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. LUETKEMEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to discuss the health care bill, this monstrous health care bill, one thing is clear: American families simply cannot afford this attempt at a government takeover of health care.

The proposed plan is the wrong prescription for our country. This monstrous piece of legislation is a prescription for tax increases and for job loss, but most importantly and unfortunately, with the government's dictating health care terms and choices, we're going to see a lower standard of care for our families.

By forcing this mammoth overhaul on hardworking Americans, this majority is hoping to create a health care system that increases taxes on small businesses, that reduces benefits for

seniors, and that piles insurmountable debt upon our children.

Republicans have offered a more responsible, incremental approach to improve our health care system in a way that controls costs and that provides the quality of care that Americans deserve.

Despite months of town hall meetings at which millions of Americans voiced their opposition to a government takeover of health care, the majority still doesn't get it. The American people deserve more. They want more.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, as we enter now an historic moment in our country's progress towards creating a fair, a more just, and a better economy for ourselves and for our children, I want to offer for the record a quote—a fee quote—from a business in my district with 60 employees which underlines why we need to move forward. This is one of the good guys. He employs 60 people with good wages and benefits, and for 2010, he has been told that his health insurance premiums are going up 32 percent.

We have heard for months now about how we're moving too fast and about how we've got to take our time, but the fact of the matter is that it is time to act so we can have an economy that can address creating new jobs without taking on enormous new benefit costs, which is the reality today, particularly for small businesses and for the self-employed.

If you care about growing this economy, if you care about giving the risk-takers of America the opportunity to go out and to pursue their dreams, we have got to create a stable marketplace, which H.R. 3692 will do with a national health insurance purchasing exchange.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the Pelosi health care plan raises premiums, raises taxes, cuts Medicare, and costs over \$1 trillion. If you need more reasons to be concerned about it, there are 1,990 pages that will give you all kinds of excuses.

The good news is they're about 20 votes short. The bad news is it's time to make a deal in Washington. So, if you're a swing Democrat and if you need a road or a bridge or a new building or a Federal earmark in your district, walk down the hall, see the Speaker, put your vote on the bargaining block, and you, too, can be won over in terms of government-sponsored health care.

This is no way to run a republic. There are alternatives—targeted, market-oriented reforms that will not raise taxes and that will not cut Medicare.

SELF-DEFENSE IS NOT A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 867, which opposes the enforcement and further consideration of the Goldstone Report.

I have been to Gaza. I have seen the desolation and poverty in which the people of Gaza survive. I have also been to Israel. I have seen Sderot, which is where civilians have been hammered relentlessly by rockets from Gaza. I have seen the fortified recreation center there, complete with bomb shelters—the only place children feel safe to play.

This decades-old battle is complex, and it deserves to be examined, but what we cannot do is turn the victims into the perpetrators. We cannot forget history. For 8 years, Hamas has continuously fired thousands of rockets at innocent Israeli civilians. Israel finally struck back, defending itself against an opportunistic enemy.

I am grateful to Chairman BERMAN for his leadership on this issue.

Note: Self-defense is not a crime against humanity, and we must not let a deeply flawed report destroy progress made in the peace process.

H.R. 2607—THE SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS BILL

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House is going to vote on the Democrats' latest plan for Pelosi's government-run health insurance. The bill is 2,000 pages long, weighs 20 pounds, and costs more than \$1 trillion. With over 400,000 words in it, that comes out to \$2.5 million a word. The bill creates 111 new bureaucracies which will decide what kind of government-approved health care is best for your family and you.

Speaker PELOSI wants America to believe this is the only way to reform health care, but I know there is a better solution. That's why I introduced the Small Business Health Fairness bill. My bill, H.R. 2607, allows small businesses to band together to purchase health insurance so they can enjoy the same bargaining power that large corporations and labor unions have at the purchasing table.

We know that buying in bulk reduces the price tag, and health care is no different. Government-forced health care is not the way to solve the problem.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, in our efforts to reform our Nation's health care system, it seems like a lot of different solutions have arisen, and now we know what the insurance companies' solution is. It's the 32 percent solution.

You heard my colleague Mr. COURTNEY talk about one of his constituents. I'd like to read you a little bit of a letter from one of mine—a letter from Gregg Wagner, a Realtor in Louisville:

"Today, I received my annual premium increase. My new premium with Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield increased 32 percent. I have an individual policy with a \$2,500 deductible. It is interesting to note that Anthem did not spend one penny on me in the last year. Nothing. This has followed 15-25 percent increases in the last 8 years. This is one of the reasons that 30 percent of Realtors in the United States do not have health insurance."

Mr. Wagner, the Realtors are not alone. Millions of Americans face this unsustainable health insurance system where, if they can get coverage, it's pricing itself beyond their reach. We need change. We need competition and choice. That's what the Affordable Health Care for America Act does.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, if you were to write a reform of the health care system for America, you wouldn't have the Pelosi bill. If you were to write the health care bill for liberal San Francisco, you'd have the Pelosi bill.

Why?

It would cost too much. It would tax too much. It would be heavy on government. It would be wild on bureaucracy. It would contain 3,425 separate uses of the word "mandate." 3,425 times the government is going to tell you what to do. 3,425 times we're giving power to the Federal Government to get between you and your government.

In America, it makes no sense. It may make sense in liberal San Francisco, but in my district, it doesn't. For the rest of the United States, it doesn't. Let's save America from this fate. Let's save the American system.

HEALTH REFORM

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as this House, this Congress, takes up the debate during this historic opportunity